

## THE GLOBAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX



The potential for young people to contribute to a happy, healthy and prosperous future is threatened by widespread joblessness, unequal access to health and education and lack of political influence. This is the conclusion of the Global Youth Development Index, an initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat, which ranked 183 countries according to 18 indicators covering employment, education, literacy, health, and civic and political engagement. The first-ever Global Youth Development Index shows that:

- The top ten countries, with the exception of Australia and Japan, are from Europe. The ten lowest-ranked countries are all from Sub-Saharan Africa, however the region also recorded the largest improvement in the last five years.
- Young people are twice as likely as adults to be jobless.
- Young women are much less likely to enjoy access to education, health services, financial services and digital technology than young men.
- Participation in formal politics is declining, underscoring growing frustration amid unmet aspirations, although digital activism, protests and volunteering are growing.
- Young people suffer disproportionately as victims of violent crime. However, young people also play an active role in peace-building.

The Commonwealth defines youth development as: "Enhancing the status of young people, empowering them to build on their competencies and capabilities for life. It will enable them to contribute to and benefit from a politically stable, economically viable, and legally supportive environment, ensuring their full participation as active citizens in their countries."

The top ten Commonwealth member countries are: Australia (3), United Kingdom (4), New Zealand (11), Canada (14), Malta (20), Barbados (28), Brunei (31), Sri Lanka (31), Malaysia (34) and Cyprus (38) (<http://bit.ly/2eVeKQB>).

The YDI score is a number between 0 and 1. For a country to receive a perfect score of 1, it would represent the highest possible level of youth development attainable. This scoring system is the same as the one underpinning the Human Development Index produced by the United Nations.

The index is guided by the Commonwealth definition of youth as people between the ages of 15 and 29 years of age.

The YDI index is a composite index of 18 indicators that collectively measure progress on youth development in 183 countries, including 49 of the 53 Commonwealth countries. It looks at five themes, or domains, measuring levels of education, health and wellbeing, employment and opportunity, political participation, and civic participation among young people. The domains were selected on the basis of their impact on the development of young people.

Young people make up approximately one quarter of humanity, but in many countries, particularly in South Asia and Africa, one in three people is a young person

State	Global Rank	2016 YDI Overall Score
Germany	1	0.894
Denmark	2	0.865
Australia	3	0.838
Switzerland	4	0.837
United Kingdom	4	0.837
Netherlands	6	0.836
Austria	7	0.826
Luxembourg	8	0.825
Portugal	9	0.816
Japan	10	0.815
New Zealand	11	0.813
Slovenia	12	0.811
Sweden	13	0.810
Canada	14	0.809
Ireland	15	0.806
Norway	16	0.804
Belgium	17	0.802
South Korea	18	0.797
France	19	0.795
Malta	20	0.794